

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 001955

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: PM:RGHARRISON:RES

APPROVED BY: PM:RGHARRISON

NEA:SSOBER

S/S-O: L. MATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 001955

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 001955 SENT JAKARTA TRIPOLI
CARACAS LAGOS ALGIERS 5 JANUARY.

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 001955

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 001955 SENT ACTION JIDDA INFO ABU DHABI,
AMMAN, MANAMA, BEIRUT, CAIRO, DOHA, KUWAIT, MUSCAT & TEHRAN
DATED 05 JANUARY 1975:

QTE

S E C R E T STATE 001955

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI CONCERN OVER BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW

REF: JIDDA 32

1. YOU SHOULD ASSURE THAT SAG HAS TRANSLATION OF BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW SO THAT THEY MAY UNDERSTAND CONTEXT IN WHICH POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY ACTION CAME UP.

2. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT QUESTION AROSE WITH SPECIFIC RELATION TO OIL PRICES. THE SECRETARY MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE DID NOT CONSIDER MILITARY ACTION TO BE AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM ON OIL PRICES. IN COMMENTING TO PRESS ON JAN 3, SECRETARY EXPLICITLY RULED OUT POSSIBILITY OF USE OF FORCE OVER PRICES, AS TROUBLESOME AS THEY ARE.

3. THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY ACTION WAS ADDRESSED BY SECRETARY IN BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW AS A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION IN THE EVENT THERE SHOULD BE SOME DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO STRANGLE THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD. IN SUCH A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION, HE SAID, THE USE OF FORCE WOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY IN THE GRAVEST EMERGENCY.

4. IN COMMENTS TO PRESS ON JAN 3, THE SECRETARY MADE IT CLEAR HE DID NOT CONSIDER THE PRESENT SITUATION TO BE ONE OF SUCH GRAVEST EMERGENCY, AND SAID HE DID NOT FORESEE SUCH A SITUATION ARISING.

5. YOU SHOULD ALSO NOTE, THAT, IN ANY EVENT, THERE WAS NO REFERENCE BY THE SECRETARY TO ANY POSSIBLE INVASION OF SAUDI ARABIA. THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT A POSSIBILITY WHICH IS BEFORE US.

6. FINALLY, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT, IN THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW, THE SECRETARY SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE RELATIONSHIP OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE US.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, PRESS CONFERENCES, INVASIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE001955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PM:RGHARRISON:RES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750004-0717
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750177/aaaacptt.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 JIDDA 32
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI CONCERN OVER BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, ENRG, XF, US, SA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006